

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

International Application. No. | International Filing Date
PCT/DE99/03697 | 19 November 1999

Attorney's Docket Number

051480-5045

U.S. Application No. Unassigned

09/856321

Priority Date Claimed
20 November 1998

Title of Invention

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 21 MAY 2001

MOTOR VEHICLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EXCHANGING DATA IN A MOTOR VEHICLE

Applicants For DO/EO/US

Oskar DAUNER, Robert FOERSTER, Fridjof GOEBEL, Konrad HOESS, Dr. Jutta SCHNEIDER, and Dr. Sandra SCHNEIDER

Applicants herewith submit to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☐ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☐ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
- a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
- b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
- c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
- a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
- b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
- c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
- d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventors (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:

11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A FIRST preliminary amendment.
- ☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A Verified Statement Claiming Small Entity Status
16. ☐ Other items or information:

Unassigned

09/856321

PCT/DE99/03697

05/08/01

PCT/PTO 21 MAY 2001

17. [X] The following fees are submitted:

Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):

Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO.....\$840.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to

USPTO (37 CFR 1.482).....\$670.00

No international preliminary examination fee paid to

USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee

paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)).....\$690.00

Neither international preliminary examination fee

(37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee

(37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO.....\$970.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO

(37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions

of PCT Article 33(2)-(4).....\$96.00

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =

\$ 840.00

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than

[] 20 [] 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date

(37 CFR 1.492(e)).

\$

Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	
Total Claims	10 - 20 =	0	X \$18.00	\$
Independent Claims	1 - 3 =	0	X \$78.00	\$
Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)			+ \$260.00	\$
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$840.00

Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified

Small Entity statement must also be filed. (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28)

-\$

SUBTOTAL = \$840.00

Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later

than [] 20 [] 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date | +\$

(37 CFR 1.492(f)).

TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = \$840.00

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The

assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet

(37 CFR 3.28, 3.31).

\$40.00 per property

\$0.00

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = \$840.00

Amount to be

refunded

\$

charged

\$

a. []

A check in the amount of \$840.00 to cover the Basic fee is enclosed.

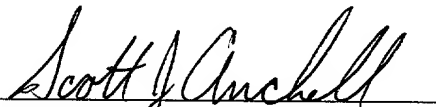
b. [X]

Please charge my Deposit Account No. 50-0310 in the amount of \$840.00

to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. [X]

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. §1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 CFR §1.16 and §1.17 which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310.



Scott J. Anchell

Reg. No. 35,035

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

1800 M Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036

(202) 467-7000

Submitted: May 21, 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
)	
Oskar DAUNER et al.)	
)	
Application No.: Unassigned)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
)	
Filed: May 21, 2001)	Examiner: Unassigned
)	
For: MOTOR VEHICLE COMMUNICATION)	
SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR)	
EXCHANGING DATA IN A)	
MOTOR VEHICLE)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute amended claims 3 and 6-9 as follows:

--3. The vehicle communication system as claimed in claim 1, characterized by an operator console controller (20.1, 20.2) with which the individual operator consoles (9) can be individually configured.

6. The vehicle communication system as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that when a defined load of the data bus (12) is reached or exceeded, at least one low-level application can be aborted or its data transmission rate can be reduced.

8. The vehicle communication system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the operator console controller (20.1, 20.2) allocates individual access rights to the applications (15) for the access to an operator console (9).

9. The vehicle communication system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a user interface (22) of an operator console (9) can be configured individually by the operator console controller (20.1, 20.2).--.

REMARKS

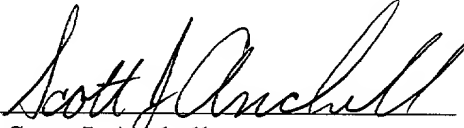
This Preliminary Amendment is being filed in order to eliminate the surcharge for multiple dependent claims. Claims 3 and 6-9 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-11 are submitted for examination. Appended hereto is an annex containing "mark-ups" of the amendments to claims 3 and 6-9.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by this Preliminary Amendment. Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated: 21 May 2001

By: 
Scott J. Anichell
Reg. No. 35,035

Customer No. 009629
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1800 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 467-7000

ANNEX CONTAINING "MARK-UPS" TO THE CLAIMS

3. The vehicle communication system as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized by an operator console controller (20.1, 20.2) with which the individual operator consoles (9) can be individually configured.
6. The vehicle communication system as claimed in [one of claims 4 or 5] claim 4, characterized in that when a defined load of the data bus (12) is reached or exceeded, at least one low-level application can be aborted or its data transmission rate can be reduced.
7. The vehicle communication system as claimed in [one of claims 4 to 6] claim 4, characterized in that the access of an application (15) to the data bus (12) can be controlled as a function of the priority of the requesting operator console (9).
8. The vehicle communication system as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the operator console controller (20.1, 20.2) allocates individual access rights to the applications (15) for the access to an operator console (9).
9. The vehicle communication system as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that a user interface (22) of an operator console (9) can be configured individually by the operator console controller (20.1, 20.2).

2/PRTS

097856321

JC18 Rec'd PCT/PTO 21 MAY 2001

GR 98 P 8173

- 1 -

Description

Vehicle communication system and method for exchanging data in a vehicle

5

The invention relates to a vehicle communication system and a method for exchanging data in a vehicle, in which data are exchanged between a plurality of different data sources which are connected to at least one processor unit, and a plurality of operator consoles which are connected to the process unit.

The laid-open publication DE 196 25 002 A1 discloses a vehicle communication system with a central processor unit for carrying out telematic applications and with interfaces via which equipment units for transmitting and connecting data can be connected to the central processor unit. The equipment units are assigned to the various telematic applications in a flexibly controllable fashion. With this system, a user can access different telematic applications in a flexible way.

The periodical mot, volume No. 21/1997, presents, on pages 20 to 21, an Internet multimedia system in a passenger car in which a driver can access external information services. At the rear of the vehicle, flat screens are provided for interactive games for passengers. Functions available in the vehicle can be output on the screens, through loudspeakers or headsets via an audio/video switch.

The patent application WO 97/03399 discloses a method in which the user of a networked computer is provided, on his user interface, with a list of application programs which are available to him in a computer network.

GR 98 P 8173

- 2 -

The patent US 5,655,081 relates to a computer network in which different computer types can be connected to one another. Software which monitors the resources and applications of a computer system runs on
5 each server of the computer system. Using the software of the individual servers of the computer system, administration software installed on a computer of the system is provided with a list of all the resources and applications present on the entire system and their
10 status.

The patent application EP 0 625 838 A2 discloses a token ring network which has workstations on which both conventional application programs and multimedia application programs run. The latter do not
15 usually exhibit tolerant behavior toward delays during the exchange of data. For this reason, the network has three priority levels. Before a multimedia application is started, testing takes place to determine whether the network can provide a sufficiently high data
20 throughput.

The international patent application WO 98/26958 relates to a fault-resistant control system for a car in which different components are integrated. A master control unit administers the data flow between
25 the components via a bus. The master control unit is operated with a configurable Windows operating system.

The international patent application WO 98/34812 discloses a multimedia unit for a motor vehicle in which a user can select an option from a
30 multiplicity of options presented on a screen.

The patent EP 0 547 052 B1 discloses an adaptive display for vehicles in which information is classified and presented on a screen as a function of its ranking.

- 3 -

Each operator console can be configured
35 individually by means of the operator console
controller. Such a configuration can conceivably relate
to the user prompting at the man/machine

GR 98 P 8173

- 4 -

interface, the assignment of running applications or their menus to the defined positions of a display device, of the access right of applications to an output device of the operator console, or the like.

5 In one particularly preferred embodiment, a plurality of functions are assigned to one application. The application may be, for example, an application such as vehicle navigation. This application is assigned the functions of routine calculation,
10 navigation information calculation, position determination by means of GPS (Global Positioning System), position determination by means of compound navigation and the outputting of visual or audible navigation information. A function which can be
15 executed can be implemented within the device by means of hardware or software. An application can access functions which are carried out by different pieces of equipment.

Each function preferably has a software
20 interface for exchanging data with other software interfaces or hardware interfaces.

In one particularly preferred embodiment, the central system controller has a central priority management system. One aspect of the central priority
25 management system may be, for example, the assignment of access rights for the operator consoles to a data bus and/or to applications. One further aspect of the central priority management system may be the assignment of access rights for applications to the
30 data bus or to operator consoles. When a plurality of actions which are subject to priorities (for example two operator consoles with specific priorities request an application with specific priorities on the same physical piece of equipment which does not have a
35 multi-console capability) coincide, the central priority management system resolves possibly occurring conflicts in favor of one of the actions. The time ranking of the action is also a suitable decision criterion here.

FBI PHILADELPHIA

GR 98 P 8173

- 5 -

When the capacity limit or a defined threshold is reached, the data transmission of a low ranking application is preferably aborted in favor of a higher-ranking application or its data transmission rate is reduced. In this way, it is ensured that, for example in the case of an accident, an automatic emergency call can be made even though the transmission capacity of the bus is completely taken up by other applications.

In the case of a conflict in which an application would have to be terminated or its data transmission reduced in order to allocate access to the data bus to another application, weighting of the access rights can be acquired from a priority right of an application and the priority right of that operator console which is accessing the application. The weighting can be calculated with weighting factors which are stored in a matrix in a memory location of the processor unit.

In one particularly preferred embodiment, the graphic user interface of an operator console can be adapted for the different requirements of a particularly practised user, a less practised user and of a child by means of presettings. Thus, for example only easily understood symbols without labeling are provided for the child, a very detailed menu with submenus is provided for the less practised user and short menus and keyboard abbreviations are provided for the practised user.

Further features, advantages and possible applications of the invention emerge from the following description of exemplary embodiments in conjunction with the drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows a schematic overview of components of a vehicle communication system,

- 6 -

Figure 3 shows a user interface which is represented on a screen.

In addition, the vehicle communication system has a mobile telephone module 8 and a plurality of operator consoles, of which just one operator console 9 is illustrated by way of example. An operator console 9 has, in each case, input units and output units, for example a keyboard, a trackball, a microphone for voice recording or as input means for a voice-operated system 10, loudspeaker, headset and a display device 31

A locating module 11 comprises a GPS receiver, a gyroscope and a distance meter.

Year	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	

GR 98 P 8173

- 7 -

All the systems are connected to a common data bus 12 via a hardware interface 13 of uniform design.

The communication system is used for carrying out applications, functions and services. It can access
5 external telematic services and the Internet via the mobile telephone module 8.

One application comprises at least one function which permits the services to be provided for the user. One function is carried out in each case in a single
10 equipment unit.

A central system controller 17, an operator console controller 20 and a priority management system 19 are implemented with the processor unit 1. The priority management system 19 has modules which are
15 functionally assigned to the central system controller 17, and has modules which are functionally assigned to the operator console controller 20.

By means of the priority management system 19, each operator console 19 can be respectively allocated
20 a priority, either with respect to the entire vehicle communication system or with respect to the individual applications. In addition, the priority management system 19 controls accesses of the individual applications to the data bus and to the individual
25 operator consoles 9.

The priority management system 19 is expediently organized in a modular function. The priority management system 19 has a system-related priority management module which controls the accesses
30 of the individual operator consoles 9 to the applications present in the vehicle communication system, and a bus-related priority module which controls the accesses and access requests of the applications to the data bus 12. In addition to these
35 two modules, which are functionally assigned to the central system controller 17, the priority management system 19 has an operator-console-related priority management module,

2001 4 23 10:00

GR 98 P 8173

- 8 -

and more precisely an operator-console-related priority management module for each operator console 9. The operator-console-related priority management module is functionally assigned to the operator console
5 controller 20.

The bus-related priority management module prevents overloading of the data bus 12 in order to ensure sufficient data transmission quality for all the applications active at a given time. In the event of
10 impending overloading of the data bus 12, a new application is permitted only if corresponding free bus capacities can be provided simultaneously by means of suitable measures. In particular in the case of an access of a high-ranking application, such as a traffic
15 jam warning for the driver of the vehicle, one or more low-ranking applications are terminated or their data transmission is reduced. Likewise, actions and applications of operator consoles which are given a low ranking can be terminated or reduced. The latter can
20 signify that the bus-related priority management module reduces the quality of a video transmission in order to reduce the data volume on the data bus 12.

The bus-related priority management module takes account, in particular, of the fact that certain
25 data of applications, such as a telephone call, have to be transmitted without delay in real time.

In addition, the bus-related priority management module ensures that the bus capacity is occupied only up to a defined threshold so that
30 sufficient transmission capacity is available for particularly high-ranking applications, for example the automatic or manual transmission of an emergency call via the mobile telephone module 8.

The bus-related priority management module can
35 be configured in order to determine those users, applications or actions which will be switched off in the case of an excessively high bus load,

GR 98 P 8173

- 9 -

or which will have their data transmission delayed or have their transmission quality impaired.

The priority management 19 also comprises a priority master which resolves conflicts between individual modules of the priority management. Here, the priority master is superordinate to the system-related, operator-console-related and bus-related priority management modules. A presetting which has been made by means of the system-related priority management module enjoys, once more, priority here over the operator-console-related priority management module. A high priority which has been specified for a "telephone" application by the system-related priority module sets the operator-console-related priority management modules to a corresponding priority.

In addition, there is provision in this exemplary embodiment for the priority master also to be superordinate to the central operator console controller 20 and the resource management system described below.

The possible cases of conflict between the modules of the priority management system are stored in a matrix and can be set by means of a general system configuration module. This general system configuration module has a presetting with which the vehicle communication system is supplied to an end customer. It can be provided with a plurality of additional presettings ex works so that a user can select between a plurality of typical possibilities without himself having to perform a configuration.

Thus, in one presetting there may be provision for the driver of the vehicle to be provided with both visual and audible navigation information from the navigation device 2. In another presetting there may be provision for the driver of the vehicle to be provided only with audible navigation information in order to avoid him being distracted from the events on the road. However, at the same time

GR 98 P 8173

- 10 -

it is possible to provide a visual playback of a road map with navigation symbols for a passenger. In this case, the driver of the vehicle is not provided with any access right to the visual output of the navigation device 2.

For each operator console 9, the interaction of the individual operator console 9 with the entire vehicle communication system, and in particular with the central system controller, is regulated by means of an operator console controller 20.1, 20.2. In addition, the operator console controller 20.1, 20.2 controls the user interface of an operator console. The operator console controller comprises modules 20.2 which are functionally assigned to the individual operator consoles 9. These local modules 20.2 may be implemented in the central processor unit. In this exemplary embodiment, they are, however, implemented in the individual operator consoles and are administered by a central module 20.1 of the central processor unit 1, although they could also be administered by local processor units of the operator consoles.

The operator console controller of an operator console 9 comprises the operator-console-related priority management module and an operator console configuration module. The latter is a subunit of an operation management system, and more precisely of an operation management configuration module.

The operation management system has modules which are functionally assigned to the central system controller 17, and contains modules which are functionally assigned to the operator console controller 20.

The operator-console-related priority management module determines the priorities of the applications present in the vehicle communication system with respect to their access rights to the output devices of the operator console.

GR 98 P 8173

- 11 -

The operator-console-related priority management module is functionally assigned to the operator console controller 20, but it is nevertheless in a subordination relationship with respect to the
5 central priority management system 19 which is functionally assigned to the central system controller 17.

Figure 2 illustrates an application 15 which accesses functions 16.1 to 16.5, the functions being
10 embodied within various devices.

The application 15 illustrated relates to a vehicle navigation system. The navigation device 2, the locating module 11 and the audio system 4, inter alia, are connected via the data bus 12. The devices each
15 have a hardware interface 13 with which they are physically connected to the data bus 12. The functions 16.1 to 16.5 which are implemented in the devices each have their own software interfaces 18.1 to 18.5. The data of the hardware interfaces 13 are converted by
20 these software interfaces into input parameters for the functions 16.1 to 16.5 which are assigned to the respective software interfaces 18.1 to 18.5. The output parameters of the corresponding functions 16.1 to 16.5 are converted by the software interfaces 18.1 to 18.5
25 assigned to the respective functions 16.1 to 16.5 into data for the other software interfaces 18.1 to 18.5 and/or of the hardware interfaces 13.

When the "navigation" application is called, the navigation device 2 which is equipped with a
30 microprocessor makes available a start menu on a display device of the requesting user. The start menu can be configured individually for the operator console using the operator console controller.

After the inputting of a line, function 16.3
35 firstly determines the instantaneous location of the vehicle. To do this, the function 16.3 accesses the locating module 11. The locating

GR 98 P 8173

- 12 -

module 11 comprises a function 16.1 for absolute determination of the location by means of a GPS receiver, and a function 16.2 for relative determination of the location by means of angular measurement and measurement of the distance covered (compound navigation). This data is transferred by the functions 16.1 and 16.2 to the navigation device 2 via the software interfaces 18.1 and 18.2 and the hardware interface 13.

After this data has been input, the function 16.3 requests the road network data required to calculate a route from the application 15 of the DVD playback device, which is not illustrated in Figure 2, and calculates a suitable route to the destination.

The function 16.4 determines driving instructions for the route determined by the function 16.3. The driving instructions are output by the function 16.4 in good time before each maneuver which is to be initiated by the driver of the vehicle, to the audio system 4 as voice information via the data bus 12. The function 16.5 of the audio system converts the voice information into audible signals, amplifies them and plays them back via loudspeakers.

The vehicle communication system has a resource management system controlling the interplay between the user interface, application and function units. This resource management system is composed of a function management module, an access conflict management module and a bus capacity management module.

The function management module has the "function availability", "functional status" and "functional use management" submodules. In addition, a module may be provided for the configuration of the functional management module in order, for example, to be able to carry out tests by gating out a function.

GR 98 P 8173

- 13 -

The "functional availability" submodule administers a list containing all the functions which can be executed in the vehicle communication system, for example the "forward", "stop", "playback", "pause" etc. operator functions of the DVD playback device.

The "function status" submodule contains the type of function (controlling or interrogating), the status indicating whether the function is being used by an application, if appropriate by which application the function is being used and from which operator console the function is being used. At the operator console it is possible to differentiate between the operator terminal (input means) and the output device. This submodule maps real system states and system properties.

The "function use management" submodule covers the potential logic connection possibilities between the functions which can be executed, the equipment units and applications and the operation possibilities for a specific application. In the "function use management" submodule, information is stored indicating which data source can transmit its data to which data sinks on the basis of the physical peripheral conditions.

The access conflict management module has the "source access", "sink accesses" and "configuration of the access management system" submodules.

The access conflict management module reports conflicts which have come about to the central priority management system. It therefore detects the instantaneous state of the entire vehicle communication system for the priority management system.

The bus capacity management module has the "detection of impending overloading", "detection of existing conflicts" and "configuration of the bus capacity management module" submodules. The bus capacity management module reports, like the access conflict management module, the acquired results to the central priority management system.

GR 98 P 8173

- 14 -

In this context, the results are relevant in particular for the bus-related priority management system.

The "configuration of the bus capacity management module" submodule permits threshold values, for example the threshold for impending overloading of the data bus 12, to be set. In contrast to the modules of the bus-related priority management system which handle bus accesses, the bus capacity management module merely determines the system history, supplies an estimate of the possible subsequent state and if appropriate outputs a message or warning.

The resource management system is functionally assigned to the central system controller.

Figure 3 illustrates the method of operation of the operator console controller and of the operation management system.

An output device 21 of an operator console makes available a user interface 22 for the user. Provided on the user interface 22 is a field A for e-mails, a field B for traffic news, a field C for incoming telephone calls and a field D for the outputting of navigation information of the "navigation" application.

Incoming e-mails are presented in field A. Traffic news is displayed in the inactive field B (illustrated by broken lines) if a relevant traffic message arrives in the vehicle communication system, and a "traffic jam warning" application or function accesses the output device 21.

In field C, a "call" selection element lights up as soon as a call arrives for this operator console of the display device 21. The call can be accepted by activating an operator key, a voice command or the like.

GR 98 P 8173

- 15 -

The operation management system controls the user interface. It respectively assigns to the individual applications for the individual operator console a start menu and a section on the screen in which they can be displayed.

The operator management system has, in addition to the operation management configuration module already mentioned above, also the "automatic state system", "outputting of source data" and "assignment of operator consoles to displays" modules.

The "automatic state system" module has the "automatic state overall system" and "automatic state system location 1 to automatic state system location N" submodules. These automatic state systems detect only the real states of the vehicle communication system and not the freely definable system states.

The "automatic state overall system" stores the system states (for example "DVD playback device operating"), the events which are intended to trigger a transition into new states (transition states) and the subsequent states which occur after actions have been triggered. As a result, the system states which are detected can be connected to the masks of the user interface or to the information which is to be output to the user.

The automatic state systems of the locations 1 to N detect the relevant history of an operation procedure and the applications which are being used by the respective operator console at that time. In addition, all the operation possibilities available in the vehicle communication system are stored.

The operation management configuration module has the "overall system configuration", "operator console configuration location 1" to "operator console configuration location N" submodules. These modules relate exclusively to freely definable system states.

GR 98 P 8173

- 16 -

The configuration modules are used to set the user interface and the operation menus. It is possible to set which start screen and which start menu will be displayed, as well as the method of operation desired by the user. The latter may be distinguished as "advanced control", "new user control" or "child-friendly control". Here, the configuration can be performed individually for the operator console N using the operator console configuration module location N".

10 The "outputting of source data" module brings about the connection between the inputs of a user and the source data which are output at the operator console and are received via the data bus, for example. The source data are intended to be displayed to the user regularly. The organization of a display is brought about by this module, together with the corresponding user menu or as an alternative to this user menu. Source data are therefore connected to configurable user menus.

20 In order to assign the operator terminals to displays, the "assignment of operator consoles to displays" module resorts to the "function use management" submodule of the function management system of the resource management system. This ensures that only a selection of combination possibilities which are appropriate for the user are made available. The vehicle communication system is delivered ex works with a basic setting for the assignment of the operator terminals to the output devices.

30 In addition, the "assignment of operator consoles to displays" module can also assign a remote control function to a specific operator console.

GR 98 P 8173

- 17 -

Patent Claims

1. A vehicle communication system which has:
 - at least one processor unit (1), arranged in the vehicle, for controlling applications (15).
 - 5 - a plurality of different data sources (2, 4, 5, 6, 8) which are connected to the processor unit (1),
 - a plurality of operator consoles (9) which are connected to the processor unit (1) and have user interfaces for accessing the applications (9) and
 - 10 for data playback, and
 - a central system controller (17) having a priority management system (19) which allocates, to the individual operator consoles (9), access rights with different degrees of priority to the
 - 15 applications (15).
2. The vehicle communication system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that functions (16) which are implemented on the processor unit (1) or on a data
- 20 source (2, 4, 5, 6, 8) are assigned to the applications (15).
3. The vehicle communication system as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized by an operator console controller (20.1, 20.2) with which the individual operator consoles (9) can be individually
- 25 configured.
4. The vehicle communication system as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that the priority management system (19) allocates to the applications (15) individual access rights to a data bus (12) and/or
- 30 to the processor unit (1).
5. The vehicle communication system as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that the priority management system (19) allocates to the applications (15) access to the data bus (12) as a function of the
- 35 loading of the data bus (12) at that time.

GR 98 P 8173

- 18 -

6. The vehicle communication system as claimed in one of claims 4 or 5, characterized in that when a defined load of the data bus (12) is reached or exceeded, at least one low-level application can be aborted or its data transmission rate can be reduced.

7. The vehicle communication system as claimed in one of claims 4 to 6, characterized in that the access of an application (15) to the data bus (12) can be controlled as a function of the priority of the requesting operator console (9).

8. The vehicle communication system as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the operator console controller (20.1, 20.2) allocates individual access rights to the applications (15) for the access to an operator console (9).

9. The vehicle communication system as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a user interface (22) of an operator console (9) can be configured individually by the operator console controller (20.1, 20.2).

10. A method for exchanging data in a vehicle, in which at least one processor unit (1) and a plurality of data sources (2, 4, 5, 6, 8) communicate with operator consoles (9) via a data bus (12),

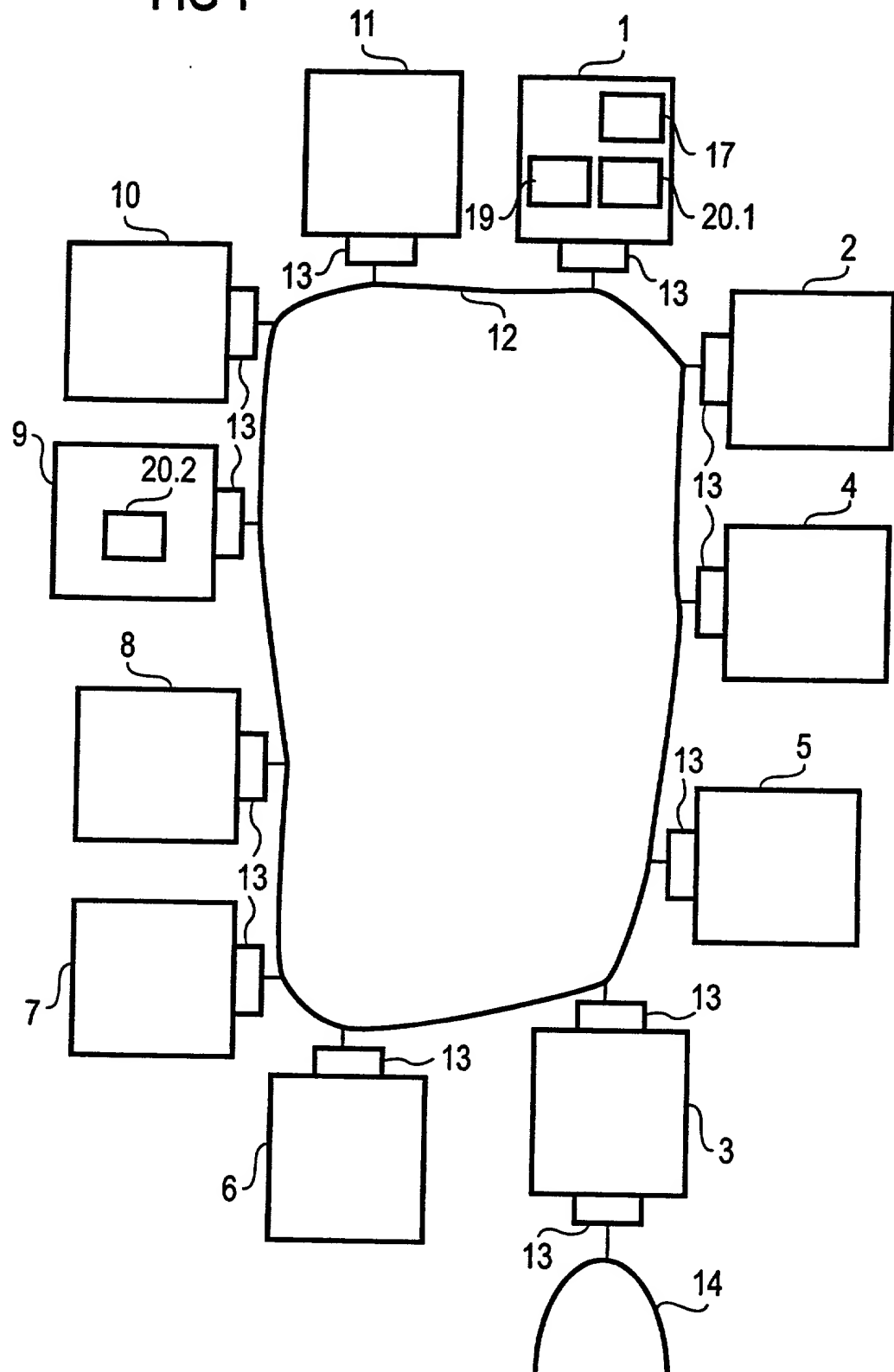
- different applications (15) being controlled by the processor unit (1) so that they output onto different output devices (21),
- access rights to the applications (15) being allocated to the operator consoles (9),
- access rights with different degrees of priority to the applications (15) being allocated to the individual operator consoles (9).

- 19 -

- 5 - user prompting at the man/machine interface,
- assignment of running applications or their menus to defined positions of a display device,
- assignment of the access right of applications to an output device of the operator console.

1/2

FIG 1



2/2

FIG 2

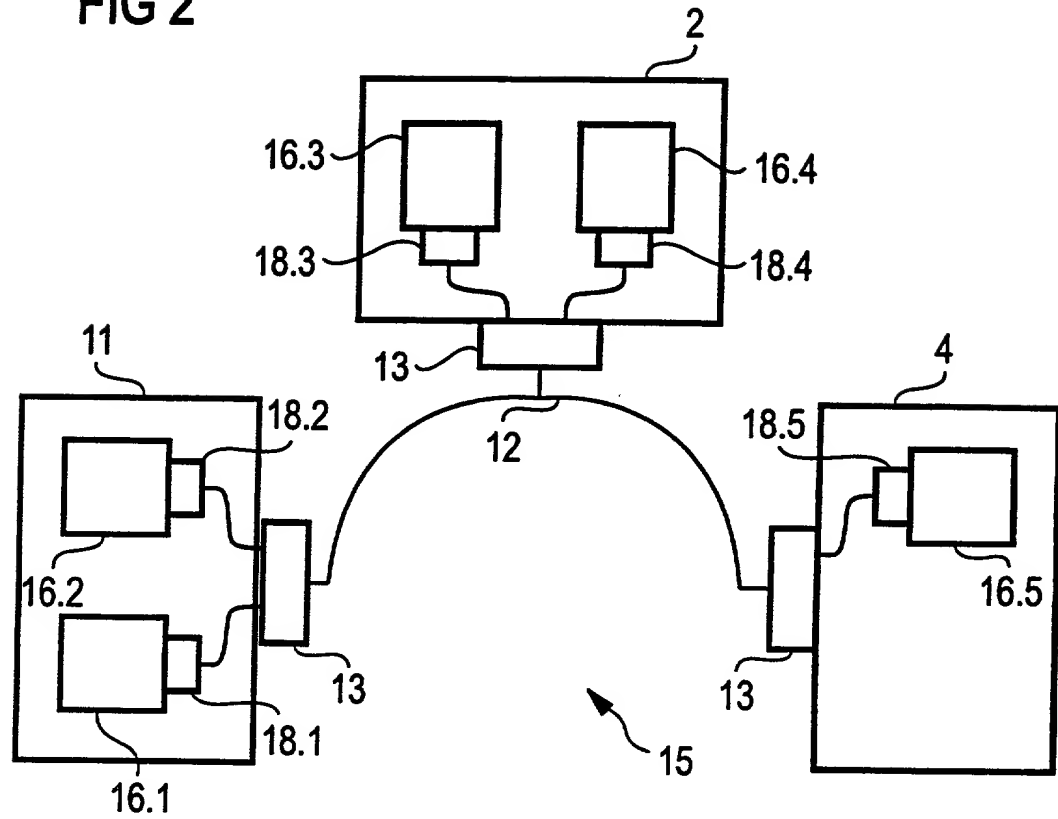
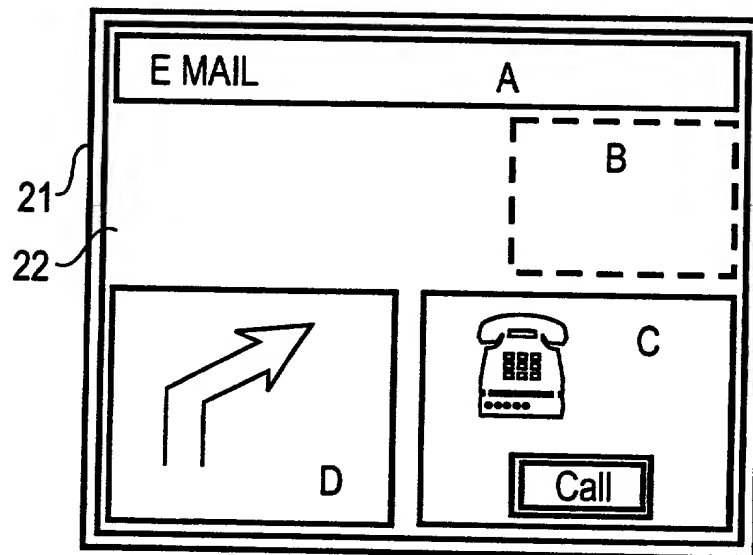


FIG 3



19 NOV 2001
1998P08173W00S

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

Erklärung Für Patentanmeldungen Mit Vollmacht

German Language Declaration

09/855721

Als nachstehend benannter Erfinder erkläre ich hiermit an Eides Statt:

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

dass mein Wohnsitz, meine Postanschrift, und meine Staatsangehörigkeit den im Nachstehenden nach meinem Namen aufgeführten Angaben entsprechen,

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

dass ich, nach bestem Wissen der ursprüngliche, erste und alleinige Erfinder (falls nachstehend nur ein Name angegeben ist) oder ein ursprünglicher, erster und Miterfinder (falls nachstehend mehrere Namen aufgeführt sind) des Gegenstandes bin, für den dieser Antrag gestellt wird und für den ein Patent beantragt wird für die Erfindung mit dem Titel:

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Fahrzeugkommunikationssystem und Verfahren zum Austausch von Daten in einem Fahrzeug

Motor vehicle communication system and method for exchanging data in a motor vehicle

deren Beschreibung

the specification of which

(zutreffendes ankreuzen)

☐ hier beigefügt ist.

☒ am 19.11.1999 als

PCT internationale Anmeldung

PCT Anmeldungsnummer PCT/DE99/03697

eingereicht wurde und am

abgeändert wurde (falls tatsächlich abgeändert).

(check one)

☐ is attached hereto.

☒ was filed on 19.11.1999 as

PCT international application

PCT Application No. PCT/DE99/03697

and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

Ich bestätige hiermit, dass ich den Inhalt der obigen Patentanmeldung einschliesslich der Ansprüche durchgesehen und verstanden habe, die eventuell durch einen Zusatzantrag wie oben erwähnt abgeändert wurde.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to above.

Ich erkenne meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung irgendwelcher Informationen, die für die Prüfung der vorliegenden Anmeldung in Einklang mit Absatz 37, Bundesgesetzbuch, Paragraph 1.56(a) von Wichtigkeit sind, an.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

Ich beanspruche hiermit ausländische Prioritätsvorteile gemäss Abschnitt 35 der Zivilprozessordnung der Vereinigten Staaten, Paragraph 119 aller unten angegebenen Auslandsanmeldungen für ein Patent oder eine Erfindersurkunde, und habe auch alle Auslandsanmeldungen für ein Patent oder eine Erfindersurkunde nachstehend gekennzeichnet, die ein Anmeldedatum haben, das vor dem Anmeldedatum der Anmeldung liegt, für die Priorität beansprucht wird.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

German Language Declaration

Prior foreign applications
Priorität beansprucht

Priority Claimed

19853665.8

DE

20.11.1998

☒

☐

(Number)
(Nummer)

(Country)
(Land)

(Day Month Year Filed)
(Tag Monat Jahr eingereicht)

Yes
Ja

No
Nein

(Number)
(Nummer)

(Country)
(Land)

(Day Month Year Filed)
(Tag Monat Jahr eingereicht)

☐
Yes
Ja

☐
No
Nein

(Number)
(Nummer)

(Country)
(Land)

(Day Month Year Filed)
(Tag Monat Jahr eingereicht)

☐
Yes
Ja

☐
No
Nein

Ich beanspruche hiermit gemäss Absatz 35 der Zivilprozessordnung der Vereinigten Staaten, Paragraph 120, den Vorzug aller unten aufgeführten Anmeldungen und falls der Gegenstand aus jedem Anspruch dieser Anmeldung nicht in einer früheren amerikanischen Patentanmeldung laut dem ersten Paragraphen des Absatzes 35 der Zivilprozessordnung der Vereinigten Staaten, Paragraph 122 offenbart ist, erkenne ich gemäss Absatz 37, Bundesgesetzbuch, Paragraph 1.56(a) meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung von Informationen an, die zwischen dem Anmeldedatum der früheren Anmeldung und dem nationalen oder PCT internationalen Anmeldedatum dieser Anmeldung bekannt geworden sind.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §122, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

PCT/DE99/03697

(Application Serial No.)
(Anmeldeseriennummer)

19.11.1999

(Filing Date D, M, Y)
(Anmeldedatum T, M, J)

(Status)
(patentiert, anhängig,
aufgegeben)

(Status)
(patented, pending,
abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)
(Anmeldeseriennummer)

(Filing Date D,M,Y)
(Anmeldedatum T, M; J)

(Status)
(patentiert, anhängig,
aufgeben)

(Status)
(patented, pending,
abandoned)

Ich erkläre hiermit, dass alle von mir in der vorliegenden Erklärung gemachten Angaben nach meinem besten Wissen und Gewissen der vollen Wahrheit entsprechen, und dass ich diese eidesstattliche Erklärung in Kenntnis dessen abgebe, dass wissentlich und vorsätzlich falsche Angaben gemäss Paragraph 1001, Absatz 18 der Zivilprozessordnung der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika mit Geldstrafe belegt und/oder Gefängnis bestraft werden können, und dass derartig wissentlich und vorsätzlich falsche Angaben die Gültigkeit der vorliegenden Patentanmeldung oder eines darauf erteilten Patentes gefährden können.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

German Language Declaration

VERTRETUNGSVOLLMACHT: Als benannter Erfinder beauftrage ich hiermit den nachstehend benannten Patentanwalt (oder die nachstehend benannten Patentanwälte) und/oder Patent-Agenten mit der Verfolgung der vorliegenden Patentanmeldung sowie mit der Abwicklung aller damit verbundenen Geschäfte vor dem Patent- und Warenzeichenamt: (Name und Registrationsnummer anführen)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

Customer No.

And I hereby appoint

Telefongespräche bitte richten an:
(Name und Telefonnummer)

Direct Telephone Calls to: (name and telephone number)

Ext. _____

Postanschrift:

Send Correspondence to:

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
1701 Market Street 19103-2921 Philadelphia, PA
Telephone: and Facsimile
OR
Customer No.

Voller Name des einzigen oder ursprünglichen Erfinders:	Full name of sole or first inventor:
OSKAR DAUNER	OSKAR DAUNER
Unterschrift des Erfinders	Inventor's signature
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
Datum	Date
<i>13/09/2001</i>	
Wohnsitz	Residence
<i>Le Perray, Frankreich</i>	<i>Le Perray, FRANCE</i>
ESSLINGEN, DEUTSCHLAND	ESSLINGEN, GERMANY
Staatsangehörigkeit	Citizenship
DE	DE
Postanschrift	Post Office Address
<i>1 rue de Parfond</i>	<i>1 rue de Parfond</i>
SALZMANNWEG 18	SALZMANNWEG 18
73732 ESSLINGEN	73732 ESSLINGEN
<i>78610 Le Perray</i>	<i>78610 Le Perray</i>
<i>Franreich</i>	<i>France</i>
Voller Name des zweiten Miterfinders (falls zutreffend):	Full name of second joint inventor, if any:
ROBERT FOERSTER	ROBERT FOERSTER
Unterschrift des Erfinders	Second Inventor's signature
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
Datum	Date
<i>15.03.01</i>	
Wohnsitz	Residence
WOERTH, DEUTSCHLAND	WOERTH, GERMANY
Staatsangehörigkeit	Citizenship
DE	DE
Postanschrift	Post Office Address
FRIEDENSTR. 1	FRIEDENSTR. 1
93086 WOERTH	93086 WOERTH

(Bitte entsprechende Informationen und Unterschriften im Falle von dritten und weiteren Miterfindern angeben).

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors).

Voller Name des dritten Miterfinders: FRIDJOF GOEBEL		Full name of third joint inventor: FRIDJOF GOEBEL	
Unterschrift des Erfinders <i>Friderjof Goebel</i>	Datum 19/08/01	Inventor's signature	Date
Wohnsitz HEILBRONN, DEUTSCHLAND		Residence HEILBRONN, GERMANY	
Staatsangehörigkeit DE		Citizenship DE	
Postanschrift DERFTLINGER STR. 20		Post Office Address DERFTLINGER STR. 20	
74080 HEILBRONN		74080 HEILBRONN	
Voller Name des vierten Miterfinders: KONRAD HOESS		Full name of fourth joint inventor: KONRAD HOESS	
Unterschrift des Erfinders <i>Konrad Hoess</i>	Datum 15.03.01	Inventor's signature	Date
Wohnsitz PARSBERG, DEUTSCHLAND		Residence PARSBERG, GERMANY	
Staatsangehörigkeit DE		Citizenship DE	
Postanschrift RINGSTR. 28		Post Office Address RINGSTR. 28	
92331 PARSBERG		92331 PARSBERG	
Voller Name des fünften Miterfinders: Dr. JUTTA SCHNEIDER		Full name of fifth joint inventor: Dr. JUTTA SCHNEIDER	
Unterschrift des Erfinders <i>Jutta Schneider</i>	Datum 07/05/01	Inventor's signature	Date
Wohnsitz ERLANGEN, DEUTSCHLAND		Residence ERLANGEN, GERMANY	
Staatsangehörigkeit DE		Citizenship DE	
Postanschrift Quensfeldstr. 14 FRIEDRICH-BAUER-STR. 7		Post Office Address Quensfeldstr. 14 FRIEDRICH-BAUER-STR. 7	
91058-ERLANGEN 72076 Tübingen		91058-ERLANGEN 72076 Tübingen	
Voller Name des sechsten Miterfinders: Dr. SANDRA SCHNEIDER		Full name of sixth joint inventor: Dr. SANDRA SCHNEIDER	
Unterschrift des Erfinders <i>Sandra Schneider</i>	Datum 06.04.01	Inventor's signature	Date
Wohnsitz STUTTGART, DEUTSCHLAND		Residence STUTTGART, GERMANY	
Staatsangehörigkeit DE		Citizenship DE	
Postanschrift HEIMERDINGER WEG 1		Post Office Address HEIMERDINGER WEG 1	
70499 STUTTGART		70499 STUTTGART	

(Bitte entsprechende Informationen und Unterschriften im Falle von dritten und weiteren Miterfindern angeben).

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors).